History has shown us that crisis like COVID-19 pandemic can have protracted and severe consequences for younger populations, who are already starting to be termed the ‘lockdown generation.’

Research is indicating the multi dimensional challenge the pandemic poses for young people through the resultant disruption to education and training, amplified vulnerabilities among young workers, and a longer more arduous transition into decent work.

In the times of crisis and uncertainty like present, youth voices and actions can all too easily be pushed to the side. Recognizing the integral part they have to play in the solution and recovery, ILO India has been proactive in engaging with the youth and highlighting their issues among constituents and stakeholders.

We believe that only by working together with and for youth, can we prevent the COVID-19 crisis from having not only a negative but a potentially long-lasting impact on young people’s lives. Read more about our initiatives and plans to support youth and other important activities in this issue.
Future of Work: COVID-19 and beyond

The ILO in association with United Nations Resident Coordinator’s office in India, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Yuwaah, an alliance for youth led by UNICEF organized this dialogue. It was targeted at youth, providing insights on emerging job market trends and required skills needed to build resilience. The online event watched by over 8400 viewers had industry leaders, entrepreneurs, employment experts and student representatives sharing their views. Watch the video here.

Tackling the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific

A report ‘Tackling the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific’ by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), calls on governments in the region to adopt urgent, large-scale and targeted measures to generate jobs for youth. It demands to keep education and training on track, and to minimize future scarring of more than 660 million young people in the region. Read the press release here. Access the complete report here.

Youth & COVID-19: Impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being

The new ILO global report launched on the International Youth Day (August 12) captures the immediate effects of the pandemic on the lives of young people (aged 18-29) concerning employment, education, mental well-being, rights and social activism. Over 12,000 responses were received from young people in 112 countries. The study finds the impact of the pandemic on young people to be systematic, deep and disproportionate. Access the report here.

Discussion Paper: Wage code and rules – Will they improve the welfare of low-paid workers in India?

The Discussion Paper: Wage code and rules – Will they improve the welfare of low-paid workers in India? examines how some of the key reform measures undertaken in the wage code could potentially benefit low-paid workers. This brief was jointly authored by Xavier Estupiñan, Wage Specialist with ILO DWT/Country Office New Delhi; Anoop Satpathy, Faculty, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute; and Bikash K. Malick, Officer, Indian Economic Service (2015 batch).
### Pillars of ILO’s response

#### 1. Stimulating the economy and employment
- For the study ‘Effectiveness and Challenges of Women Executives and Managers in Public Sector Units (PSUs) on Working from Home Arrangement’, office organized focus group discussions with managers from PSUs on 19 August 2020. ILO - Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has initiated the study jointly.
- **The Discussion Paper: Wage code and rules – Will they improve the welfare of low-paid workers in India?** was published to examine the benefits of planned wage code.
- An article ‘Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Labour Supply and Gross Value Added in India’ was published by Xavier Estupiñan, Wage Specialist and Bharti Birla, Project Manager from ILO along with others in SSRN Journal.

#### 2. Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes
- ILO experts participated in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) meeting of the Committee of Experts on COVID-19 to discuss the draft advisory for informal workers. ILO team presented their brief observations and provided technical inputs to strengthen the advisory.
- A study on Social Security Agreements between India and EU Member States was initiated under the EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (CDMM) project.
- The EU-India CDMM project has also developed and published ‘Handbook for the integration of Indians in France’. This guide developed by the ILO for Indian migrants living in France contains useful information on rights and resources. It is available in English, Hindi and Punjabi.

#### 3. Protecting workers in the workplace
- Webinar on ‘COVID-19: Return to Work and Preventive Measures in context of the State of Kerala’ was jointly organized by the ILO and Department of Factories & Boilers, Kerala Government on 6 August 2020. The meeting provided technical guidance on return to work as well as to ensure safe return of migrants.
- 150 suppliers of a leading apparel brand received practical guidance on application of workplace cooperation and grievance mechanism along with the COVID-19 preventive measures at work on 21 and 28 August 2020.
- Around 25 national MSME experts trained on advising small business employers, on prevention of gender violence and sexual harassment in workplace in response to reported increase in such incidences post-lockdown on 25 and 26 August 2020.

#### 4. Relying on social dialogue for solutions
- The EU-India CDMM project finalized the meeting recommendations from Reflections of the Indian Information Technology Industry on opportunities within the EU Legal Migration Framework seminars.
- To develop pre-departure handbook for Indian workers migrating to the EU, the EU-India CDMM project organized three consultations with Trainers of Pre-departure Orientation and Training (PDOT), Facilitators of overseas mobility and experts' groups during 11 to 21 August, 2020.
- The office has been actively engaging on creating awareness on provisions of upcoming ‘Draft Wage Rules’ policy. A virtual meeting with Central Trade Unions was held on 14 August 2020 to discuss the impact of wage rules on workers.
ILO experts @ seminars

- **Voices from Margins**, organized by Praxis India on 12 August 2020, Bharti Birla, CTA with ILO.

- **Onward and Outward: The Future of Indian Overseas Migration**, organized by India Migration Now, 27 August 2020, Shabari Nair, Regional Migration Expert and Seeta Sharma, Technical Officer, ILO.

- **COVID-19 Pandemic: Relying on Social Dialogue for Solutions in Asia and the Pacific**, organized by ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific on 4 September 2020.


Plans ahead

- Development of training-of-trainers materials based on the enterprise level COVID-19 task force guidelines.
- Convening a bipartite awareness workshop with social partners on the establishment of enterprise-level COVID-19 task forces
- A paper on Women migrants’ status in EU is being planned.

Resources


New Policy Brief
Answering key questions around informality in micro and small enterprises during the COVID-19 crisis

Practical Guide on Teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond
The purpose of the Guide is to provide practical and actionable recommendations for effective teleworking that are applicable to a broad range of actors.

Latest ILO world of work impact monitors and dedicated Portal for updates https://ilo.org/covid19

News coverage

- 41 lakh youth lose jobs in India due to Covid-19 impact: ILO-ADB Report
  Covered by 18 other English and 15 regional portals

- SCOPE signs pact with ILO for study on women empowerment
  Covered by 12 other media outlets

- Minimum wage criteria rules 'ambiguous': ILO
  Coverage of ILO Discussion Paper on Wage Code

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